

- A British cannon
- B First Parallel
- C American Battery
- D American Battery
- E A Bomb Battery
- G French Battery
- H French Bomb Battery
- I Second Parallel
- K Redoubt stormed by the Americans
- L Redoubt stormed by the French
- M Three French Batteries
- N French Bomb Batteries
- O American Battery



PLAN
OF THE
SIEGE OF YORKTOWN
Oct 1781

0 1 2
Miles

WASHINGTON

6
❖A HISTORY❖

OF THE

SURRENDER OF THE BRITISH FORCES



TO THE

Americans and French,

AT

YORKTOWN, VA.

THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY WILL BE CELEBRATED

ON THE FIELD OF YORKTOWN, VA.

OCTOBER 18th, 1881.

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—BY—

DR. W. J. C. DuHAMEL,
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT COLUMBIA.

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YORKTOWN

On the York river, in full view of the beautiful waters of the Chesapeake, with its waves sparkling in the morning sun, is to be seen on a projection of land, Yorktown, Va., a place memorable in American history, and near by stands the old church, built over two hundred years ago, where repose the ashes of many patriot dead, who were killed during the siege of October, 1781.

Yorktown was occupied by Cornwallis with the British Army in August, 1781, for the purpose of being near his supplies and ships. and, as he said, to make it more convenient to capture the American army in Virginia, under the youthful General Lafayette. He also occupied the opposite point (Gloucester Point) where the British Colonel Tarlton was in command, and who was a terror to the neighboring country from his raids and acts of cruelty.

Cornwallis made several efforts to capture General Lafayette and his small force by pretended retreats, &c., but the young General was too active for him. General Anthony Wayne always managed with his troops to dash through their lines, thus breaking his designs. Cornwallis felt so secure in this position, that he offered over a thousand men to Sir Henry Clinton who was in danger from the American and French army under Washington at New York. It was at this time that General Lafayette determined to draw his net around Cornwallis, and he directed General Wayne with the addition of some six hundred militia obtained from the Government of Virginia, to move down the James river to be ready to form a junction with the troops from the French fleet, as he was then expecting Admiral DeGrasse and his fleet in the Chesapeake.

Cornwallis took forcible possession of the plantations in the counties adjoining Yorktown, making prisoners of the residents, but they lived to see the glorious sight when the British army marched out in the appointed field and surrendered their arms to the American army.

Yorktown Siege.

General Washington resolved to march south and help Lafayette to capture Cornwallis, but he had to proceed in a very careful manner to prevent Clinton at New York from reinforcing the British army in Virginia. He acted as if he were about to attack New York by way of Staten Island, but at the same time pushed the men of his army through Pennsylvania with the French forces under Count de Rochambeau.* For a time his movements were a mystery to his own army, but in a short time Sir Henry Clinton found himself out-generaled, and his friend Cornwallis, in Virginia, in a perilous position. About the same time, Lafayette wrote to Washington urging him to move south with his army, and to put himself at the head of the combined armies, as he considered it an excellent opportunity to capture the British army in Virginia, and thanked Washington for ordering him there to make such a brilliant military achievement then in prospect.

About the first of September, the American army passed through Philadelphia and Baltimore, covered with dust and in worn-out uniforms, they were received with cheers and enthusiasm by the populace who hailed them as the defenders of the country. The French entered the next day with the dust brushed off their gay white uniforms faced with green, headed by their fine military bands.

Washington joined Lafayette with the army at Williamsburg on the 12th of September, having stopped on his way for a day with his staff and French officers, at his home, Mount Vernon, after an absence of *six years*.

The British army was now in a critical situation, and its retreat was cut off from the sea by the splendid French fleet which blocked up the York river.

Artillery and siege cannons were sent up by the French Admiral to the American army, and the Generals of the American army visited the French fleet and formed a plan for the siege of Yorktown. About the 1st of October the British withdrew into the town, and the Americans seized the outworks encircling the town from river to river, and the battle commenced.

During the cannonading one shot killed three and wounded four men near General Washington, throwing the earth on the hat of

*From Rhode Island to Virginia the French army marched, not a pig or chicken being taken, which was very different from Braddock's men on their march, insulting the poor on their line of march, and the people regarded them as robbers and not as defenders.

the Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Evans, who called General Washington's attention to it; the General remarked that he should take it to his home as a relic of the siege. Governor Nelson, of Virginia, directed the first gun at his own house, as it was the headquarters of the British General, and offered a reward of £5 to the soldiers for every bomb that hit the house.*

A red hot shell from the French batteries struck the British ship *Charon* at night, and it was soon wrapped in flames, causing a vivid brightness, as other ships caught fire, while around came almost lightning and thunder from the numerous cannon and mortars, presenting a magnificent and sublime sight in the darkness of the night. Some of the shells were thrown over the town, and were seen to fall in the river, bursting and throwing up columns of water like monsters of the deep. The bombs from each party crossed each other in the air, looking at night, like fiery meteors with blazing tails descending to execute their work of destruction. For several days continued assaults were made on the different lines of fortification, and acts of bravery and gallantry were numerous, and under the personal observation of the commanding officers, and on the last day as the last line of the works was stormed, Colonel de Lameth, the Adjutant General to Lafayette, was the first to mount the parapet, he received a volley from the Hessians who defended it, and falling back shot through both knees, was conveyed away by his friends, Colonel Dumas and Surgeon DuHamel, of the French navy.

A little before day-break on the 16th, Cornwallis made a last effort to ward off the effective action of the American batteries from his dismounted works; he sent out some four hundred men under Colonel Abercrombie, and the redoubts which covered our batteries were forced, and several pieces of artillery were spiked, but the troops from the trenches drove the enemy back with loss on their part. At this time Cornwallis could not show a gun on the side of his works, and the place was no longer tenable; but rather than surrender he determined to make his escape.

Cornwallis' plan of escape from Yorktown was to attack the French and Americans at Gloucester Point before day-break; mount his Infantry on the captured cavalry and other horses, and force his way through Maryland and Pennsylvania to New York, but a violent storm arose that night and drove his boats down the river and put a stop to his wild and daring scheme. His hopes were now at an end, as his fortifications were crumbling in ruins around him, and unwilling to expose the residue of his brave men who had been so faithful in all dangers, he sent a flag of truce to Washington to suspend hostilities.

*There is a cave on the side of the river, still called the Cornwallis Cave, where, it is said, Cornwallis took refuge during the siege.

Colonel Laurens was appointed first commissioner to negotiate the surrender; he was the son of Hon. Henry Laurens, who had been sent as ambassador to Holland, but was captured and was then in the tower of London.

The terms of surrender were similar to those granted to General Lincoln a year before at Charleston, and he (General Lincoln) arranged the surrender and received the British army.*

The French and American armies formed two lines of over a mile in length, and the British army marched between the two, surrendering their arms which they threw in a pile with such force as to break them, such was the mortification of the men, and they were checked in the same. It was a bright and glorious day, but a day of bitter disappointment to the English. The captured troops marched out with colors folded and drums beating a slow march. The officers were allowed their side arms and private property, and all the military and artillery were delivered to the American forces, and the marines and seamen to the French navy. The French army with Count de Rochambeau in complete uniform, and with their bands presented a splendid appearance. The Americans though not all in uniform, presented a fine soldierly air with joy beaming from their countenances.

Every degree of confidence and harmony existed between the American and French, and the only spirit to excel was in exploits of bravery against the common enemy.

The British army made many brilliant exploits and victories under Cornwallis, and they almost adored him, but he should have cheerfully shared in their humiliation and disgrace; it is said, however, he gave himself up to vexation and remorse.†

The Commander-in-chief of the allied forces expressed himself in an order of the day—"thanks due the brave officers and soldiers of the French and American armies!"

It was a sad sight to see Yorktown after the siege, with bodies of men and horses half covered with earth, the fine houses riddled with cannon balls, and the rich furniture and books scattered over the ruins. The loss of men of the French army was double that of the Americans. There were eleven thousand in the British army at the commencement of the siege, and our forces in all amounted to about twelve thousand six hundred.

*The "Moore House," where the treaty was signed for the surrender of the British, is still existing on the "temple" farm, which was named after the ruins of an old temple erected by the Indians and was also the scene of many romances.

†Such was his mortification that he feigned sickness and deputed General O'Hara to surrender the army, which was marched out at two o'clock.

Col. Tarlton, after the surrender, was mounted on a fine horse remarkable for its noble bearing, and while riding with several French officers with whom he was to dine, was met by a Virginia gentleman who recognized and demanded his horse, but Tarlton was reluctant to give it up; General O'Hara who was present advised him to give it up at once, which he did, and had to remount a miserable old plough horse to finish his ride, as it appears that this horse had been captured in the following manner:—At Hanover Court House there were a number of Virginia gentlemen who were there to hear the news and talk over the events of the day, a servant man came at full speed to inform them that Colonel Tarlton and his British troops were not three miles off, and in their alarm and sudden confusion to get away, each one mounted the first horse he could put his hands on, thereby returned home on horses not their own. They all escaped but one gentleman who hid himself in the chimney-way and Colonel Tarlton helped himself to his splendid charger then in the stable.

Col. Tarlton who had done much injury to the citizens in his raids through the country, heard a Virginia lady speak in high terms of Colonel Washington, a relative of General Washington. Colonel Tarlton remarked that he would like to see Colonel Washington, she replied "that he could have had that pleasure if he had looked behind him in his retreat at the battle of the Cowpens.

Next to our American General Washington, much is due to the patriot General Lafayette by his skill for the success in capturing the British army at Yorktown. Lafayette was born near Paris, and the inheritor of a princely fortune. At eight years of age he entered the College of Louis the Great, and he was in a few years rewarded for his success in his studies. Here the lovely but ill fated Queen of France, Maria Antoinette, who was beheaded with the King during the reign of terror in France, encouraged him in his progress at College and had him promoted as an officer in the King's guard, and also aided him in obtaining money to help the Americans. He met Dr. Franklin in Paris and offered his services before he was twenty-one years old, and equipped a vessel at his own expense, arrived at Philadelphia and presented himself to Congress, "I have come!" he said, "to request two favors of this assemblage of patriots, one is that I may serve in your army!" "the other, that I receive no pay." His services were accepted and he was commissioned as Major-General.

The American army was much in need of supplies and rations for the men, and Lafayette sent several thousand dollars to General Washington for the purchase of the same. At the battle of Brandy-

wine, Lafayette, gave full evidence of his skill and bravery, as he was wounded on the first day of the battle. He continued actively employed with the army until 1779, when he returned to France and obtained further aid for America.

Lafayette was left an orphan in early childhood, with the inheritance of a princely fortune, and married at sixteen years of age.

To men of ordinary mould this condition would have been one of luxurious apathy, and sensual indulgence. It was the life into which from the operation of such causes Louis the Fifteenth had sunk with his household and court, while Lafayette was rising to manhood and fame, although surrounded by the contamination of their example. He was at the time of the Declaration of Independence a captain of dragoons in garrison at Metz.

On the 7th of December, 1776, Silas Deane, then a secret agent of the American Congress, agreed that Lafayette should have a commission in the United States army and the Marquis stipulated in return to depart when and how Mr. Deane should judge proper, to serve the United States with all possible zeal, without pay or emolument. The commission was confirmed by Dr. Franklin.

"The more desperate the cause," says Lafayette, "the greater need has it of my services, and if Mr. Deane has no vessel for my passage, I shall purchase one myself and will traverse the ocean with a selected company of my own." But other impediments arose; at the instance of the British ambassador, orders were issued for the detention of the vessel purchased by the Marquis, and fitted at Bordeaux, and for the arrest of his person. To elude these orders the vessel was removed from Bordeaux to the neighboring ports of passage within the dominion of Spain, from whence he sailed.

He landed with his companions on the 25th of April, 1777, in South Carolina, not far from Charleston, where he was received with cordial welcome in the house of Major Huger.

He served at the headquarters of Washington as volunteer, with the rank and commission of Major General, without command.

The fall of Philadelphia was the result of the battle of Brandywine, in which Lafayette was engaged, and the first lesson of his practical military school was a lesson of misfortune. In the attempt to rally the American troops in their retreat he received a musket ball in the leg.

The minister plenipotentiary, at the court of Versailles, was directed to cause an elegant sword, with proper devices, to be presented to him in the name of the United States.

Shortly after, he returned to the United States, in May, 1780, and from this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, with the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, and his service was of incessant activity always signalized by military talents unsurpassed and by a spirit never to be subdued.

His army needed clothing, and from the patriotic merchants of Baltimore he obtained, on the pledge of his own personal credit, a loan of money adequate to the purchase of the materials; and from the hands of the fair daughters of the Monumental City, even then as now worthy to be so called, he obtained their aid in making up the needed garments.

After forty years had elapsed he again revisited the United States which he had left at the close of the revolutionary war. The greater part of the generation for, and with whom he had fought his first battles had passed away. Of the two millions of souls for whose rescue from oppression he had crossed the ocean in 1777, not one in ten survived, and the sentiment of gratitude and affection for Lafayette far from declining with the lapse of time, quickened in spirit as it advanced in years, and seemed to multiply with the increasing numbers of the people.

And though fifty-six years have passed since that event there still exist men and women in our midst who contributed to the glorious reception of General Lafayette, *and who speak of it with just pride.*

After the war was over he returned to France. In 1789 he was elected Commander of the National Guards, and for a time checked the mob from running into those horrid excesses which were afterwards committed during the revolution. A short time after, he had to fly his country for safety and was thrown into prison and chained by the Emperor of Austria on account of his republican principles. Several years after, Bonaparte had him set at liberty, and he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies.

In 1824 General Lafayette visited the United States and was received with great ovations by a grateful people, and hailed as their benefactor by an immense concourse of American people who remembered his former services and liberality. He returned home in 1825 in a ship fitted out by the United States and named "Brandywine," in honor of his bravery at that memorable battle. He died in France, in 1834.

We are to have a Centennial celebration at Yorktown, October, 1881, and let every American visit the place and imbibe some of the patriotic sentiments on that occasion to make an impression which

he may keep during life. It will also teach him the lesson of the past. From amid the machinery of the politics of the present day he may learn what was once the tone of public life. It will enlarge his patriotism and elevate his notions of public life, and call out some veneration for the dead; the patriots of those days.

Ancient and modern history do not show a parallel for those men; for nature made those men great, called as they were by their country to defend her liberties, they vindicated the rights of humanity, and on the foundation of Independence they erected this Republic.

They *voluntarily* refused the sword and sceptre, though thrust upon them, and by this sublime act they have from that time received the world's profound admiration.

*“ On fame’s eternal camping ground,
Their silent tents are spread;
While glory guards with solemn ’round
This bivouac of the dead.”*

An invitation was extended by Governor Holliday, of Virginia, to the Governors of the Colonial States, requesting them to meet in the city of Philadelphia and confer with regard to holding a celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary.

In response to the call the Governors of the Colonial States met at "Carpenter's Hall," near "Independence Hall," on the 18th of October, 1870. On motion of Governor Hoyt, of Pennsylvania, Governor Holliday, of Virginia, was elected President, and Governor Talbot of Massachusetts, was elected Secretary.

It was resolved that a Commissioner from each State, &c., be nominated by the Governors thereof, of which Committee Governor Holliday shall be Chairman; be appointed to make all proper arrangements for such celebration.

The Governors of the States, &c., appointed the following Commissioners:

Hon. Moses White Tennessee.	Col. M. Glennan. Virginia.
Major S. P. Hamilton South Carolina.	Hon. J. L. D. Morrison. Missouri.
Hon. Milo P. Jewett, LL.D. Wisconsin.	Gen. J. F. Hartranft Pennsylvania.
Hon. Irving W. Stanton Colorado.	Hon. W. H. English Indiana.
Capt. Jno. Milledge Georgia.	Hon. E. F. Ware. Kansas.
Hon. B. F. Hart Iowa..	Hon. R. A. Gamble Florida.
Hon. Jas. W. Farley, U. S. S. California.	Gen. W. H. Bulkeley Connecticut.
Hon. W. D. Washburne, M. C. Minnesota.	Hon. B. F. Biggs Delaware.
Hon. H. G. Blasdel. Nevada.	Major J. L. Barstow. Vermont.
Col. Thos. Snell. Illinois.	Rev. J. P. DuHamel, (acting) Oregon.
Hon. Sam'l B. Churchill Kentucky.	Gen. Jas. R. Chalmers Mississippi.
Gen. B. D. Fry, Alabama.	Col. Sol. Lincoln, Jr. Massachusetts.
Hon. R. B. Peebles North Carolina.	Gen. H. Rogers. Rhode Islands
Hon. Philo Parsons. Michigan.	Hon. James D. Walker, U. S. S. Arkansas.
Gen. Lewis Perrine. New Jersey.	Hon. Geo. W. Thompson. West Virginia.
Hon. Jas. W. Patterson. New Hampshire.	Judge M. A. Dougherty Ohio.
Hon. Jno. A. King. New York.	Col. H. S. Taylor Maryland.
Col. E. P. Mattocks. Maine.	Dr W. J. C. DuHamel Dist. of Columbia.

JOINT COMMISSION OF CONGRESS.

On the Yorktown Centennial Celebration.

Hon. John W. Johnson, Pres. Virginia.	Hon. William A. Wallace. Pennsylvania.
" Edward H. Rollins, New Hampshire.	" William Pinkney White. Maryland.
" Henry L. Dawes, . . . of Massachusetts.	" Matt W. Ransom . . . North Carolina.
" Henry B. Anthony. . . Rhode Island.	" M. C. Butler South Carolina.
" Francis Kernan New York.	" Benjamin H. Hill Georgia.
" Theo. F. Randolph. . . . New Jersey.	" Thomas F. Bayard Delaware.
" William W. Eaton . . . Connecticut.	" Samuel B. Dick. Pennsylvania.
" John Goode Virginia.	" Lewis A. Bingham. . . . New Jersey.
" J. G. Hall. New Hampshire.	" E. L. Martin. Delaware.
" George B. Loring. . . . Massachusetts.	" J. F. C. Talbott Maryland.
" Nelson W. Aldrich . . Rhode Island.	" Joseph J. Davis . . . North Carolina.
" Joseph R. Hawley . . . Connecticut.	" John S. Richardson . . . South Carolina.
" Nicholas Muller. New York.	" Henry Persons. Georgia.

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President,
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First Vice-President,
HON. THOS. COCHRAN.

Second Vice-President,
HON. ALEX. H. RICE.

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COL. J. B. WHITEHEAD, Chairman.
MAJOR E. BRADFORD, PROFESSOR E. CHARLIER.

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LEWIS J. DAVIS.

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THE CELEBRATION
OF THE
YORKTOWN CENTENNIAL,
OCTOBER 19th, 1881.

INCIDENTS AND SPEECHES OF THE PRESIDENT, GOV. HOLLIDAY,
HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, AND THE
FOREIGN GUESTS.

Amid the booming of the cannon on an October evening of 1881, the steamer arrived at Yorktown, with the President of the United States, the Vice President, Senators, Commissions and Governors, and (a little later in the day) the invited foreign guests.

Ship after ship belched forth its salute of twenty-one guns. The fleet was decorated with a great variety of colors, and the yards manned. The regular rows of white tents on the bluffs gave token of the soldiers' camps. The river dotted with yachts and vessels converted into pleasure boats for the occasion, and for a mile beyond the fleet were to be seen massed over a dozen of the finest passenger steamers. But the best sight of all was the long line of war ships with floating pennants. Those of well known historical fame were the "Old Constitution," the Kearsage, which sunk the Alabama, the Franklin, the flagship of Admiral Farragut, the Tennessee, the Trenton, and a dozen other of our naval vessels. At about noon, Gov. Holliday welcomed the President, Senators and guests at Lafayette Hall, who occupied nearly an hour of social chat.

The procession moved to the site of the Monument. The ceremonies were then opened at the grand stand with prayer by the Rev. Robert Nelson, (a grandson of Gov. Nelson, who commanded the Virginia troops in 1781.) He thanked Almighty God for the one hundred years of blessing vouchsafed to our country; for Washington, our allies, and for victory. He prayed for peace among all nations, and for fraternal concord among the sections of our own country. He prayed for the welfare of the citizens.

After the music, President Arthur delivered the following address, which was received with great enthusiasm:

"Upon this soil one hundred years ago our forefathers brought to a successful issue their heroic struggle for independence. Here and then was established, and, as we trust, made secure upon this con-

continent for ages yet to come, that principle of government which is the very fibre of our political system, the sovereignty of the people. The resentments which attended and for a time survived the clash of arms have long since ceased to animate our hearts. It is with no feeling of exultation over a defeated foe that to-day we summon up a remembrance of those events which have made holy ground wherever we tread. Surely no such unworthy sentiment could find harbor in our hearts so profoundly thrilled with that expression of sorrow and sympathy which our national bereavement has evolved from the people of England and their august sovereign; but it is altogether fitting that we should gather here to refresh our souls with the contemplation of the unfaltering patriotism, the sturdy zeal, and the sublime faith with which were achieved the results we now commemorate. For so, if we learn aright the lesson of the hour, shall we be incited to transmit to the generation which shall follow the precious legacy which our fathers left to us, the love of liberty protected by law.

“Of that historic scene which we here celebrate, no feature is more prominent and none more touching than the participation of our gallant allies from across the sea. It was their presence which gave fresh and vigorous impulse to the hopes of our countrymen when well nigh disheartened by a long series of disasters. It was their noble and generous aid, extended in the darkest period of that struggle, which sped the coming of our triumph, and made capitulation at Yorktown possible a century ago. To their descendants and representatives who are here present as honored guests of the nation, it is my glad duty to offer a cordial welcome. You have a right to share with us the associations which cluster about the day when your fathers fought side by side with our fathers in the cause which was here crowned with success, and none of the memories awakened by this anniversary are more grateful to us all than the reflection that the national friendships here so closely cemented have outlasted the mutations of a changeful century. God grant, my countrymen, that they may ever remain unshaken, and that ever henceforth, with ourselves and with all nations of the earth we may be at peace.”

U. S. Senator Johnston, in a few eloquent remarks, opened the ceremonies. Amongst those present on the grand stand were W. W. Henry, grandson of Patrick Henry, Rev. Robt. Nelson, grandson of Gov. Nelson, accompanied by Rev. J. P. DuHamel, whose ancestor, a Surgeon in the French navy, was at the siege in October, 1781; also, Col. Tilghman, of Maryland, who wore the identical sword voted to his ancestor by Congress for delivering to them the news of the surrender.

The chair occupied by the Grand Master on this occasion was the

same in which George Washington sat when Grand Master of the Virginia Masons. The sash and apron worn by Grand Master Peyton S. Coles, of Virginia, were worked by Mrs. Lafayette, and presented to Washington in 1784, at Mt. Vernon. Afterward, in 1812, they were given Washington Lodge, Alexandria, Va., by Major Lawrence Lewis. The gavel was made from a portion of the quarter-deck of the United States frigate *Lawrence*, the flagship of Commodore Perry at the battle and victory of Lake Erie.

Judge B. R. Wellford, of Virginia, the Masonic orator, made an eloquent address.

Governor Holliday, of Virginia, then delivered the following address of welcome:

“This vast assembly has met to witness the fulfilment of the Republic’s promise. A century ago the spot where we are now gathered was the scene of an event which introduced the Colonies into the family of nations. Feeling assured that their Declaration of Independence had been verified and their career as a power had begun, they resolved to build here a monument to testify their gratitude for signal services and devoted patriotism, and proclaim their high purposes to all after-times. The war had been long and bloody. Fortune had for years alternately smiled and frowned. But when the ships of our great ally spread their sails in the beautiful waters toward which we are now looking, and her brilliant troops stood shoulder to shoulder with the war-worn and battle-scarred men who had marched and fought and grown old in their country’s service, and when by their united will the blow was struck whose one hundredth anniversary we this day celebrate, then the Colonies were sure the work was done, and they stepped forth in full armor among the nations of the earth. Yet neither America, nor France, nor England, had any adequate idea of the event and its marvellous influences. Each felt, I doubt not, that the final battle had been fought and the war ended. But none knew or dared to think of how the inspiration of its genius was to penetrate the sealed confines of the civilizations of Europe, and to stir them with strange and resistless forces, or how the throbbings of its life were to fill the people with an unheard-of vitality, and its growth outstrip anything hitherto known in the world’s history.

“A short time ago the country was torn by discord, and civil war strode through the land with a fierceness rarely equalled. When the fight was over the sword was sheathed, the battle-flag was furled, the wrecks of dismantled and shattered homes were gathered up—sometimes with tears, sometimes with “thoughts too deep for tears,” traditions and associations that were interwoven through the governmental and social fabric, and though they had caused dissensions,

on either side were precious, were rolled up like a scroll and laid away forever. Together again, as a united people, under the old ensign, flaming aloft and before us like a star in the serene sky, we are marching to still grander triumphs, bearing on our Atlantean shoulders an enfranchised race to the blessing of our own civilization. In the midst of the fury of partisan strife, however bitter, or however honest, it has always appeared that as we have loved our aims we have loved our country more.

“When the hand of the assassin struck our President down, there was not a home or heart, from sea to sea, from which earnest prayers did not go up for his recovery. And when death came there was not one that was not draped in mourning and bowed in deepest sorrow. He was to have been with us to-day and have joined in these august ceremonies. It has been otherwise ordained. But his honored successor is here, and his Cabinet, and the Yorktown Congressional Commission, and representatives of every department of the United States Government, and the people of the sister States and Territories, and citizens of foreign nations, to participate in the proceedings of this historic day. Virginia gives them cordial welcome! Providence decreed that her soil should be the scene of the last great act of the Revolution. Her citizens rejoice that they can grant it to all the States, and join them in building thereon a memorial which they trust may be as lasting as the emblem it typifies, and that both may be immortal. We feel that however dire the calamity that has befallen us, or may in the future come, Faith is not dead, and patriotism has not been wounded. “God reigns and the Government at Washington still lives!” The friends of freedom everywhere catch up the grand refrain and speed it around the world—God reigns and the Government at Washington still lives! Long live the Government!

“The descendants of the distinguished German who commanded an important part of the forces here, and was very near to Washington, have come in obedience to our request to help us celebrate their anniversary as well as ours. We give them kindly greeting! The sword of Steuben, drawn in behalf of Freedom, opened the way for the advent of his vigorous and gifted race. We have invited France to join us. Her chosen citizens are here—the descendants and representatives of those without whose aid neither this day nor this monument could have been possible. We build this monument to perpetuate the recollection of that work. We will guard it with pious hands and hearts, and transmit it to the countless generations who will follow us to show how in God’s ways a brave and noble deed evolves its own triumphs. So may the principles this monument is intended to represent not fail from the memory of men!”

Governor Holliday has a fine presence, a clear voice, and earnest manner, and was frequently applauded, especially by the distinguished gentlemen who sat around him. His allusions to the unity of sentiment, purpose and destiny of all sections of the common country were greeted with enthusiastic applause. United States Senator J. W. Johnson, of Virginia, chairman of the Congressional Commission then made a few remarks, in which he sketched the history of the surrender, read from original documents an account of the action of Congress at the time, exhibited the sword voted to the messenger who bore the news of the surrender, and alluded to the fact that W. W. Henry, a grandson of Patrick Henry, and the Rev. Dr. Nelson, a grandson of Governor Nelson, were on the stand. In conclusion, he said:

“Three millions of people, and thirteen colonies accomplished the great work, and now 50,000,000 of people and thirty-eight States are celebrating it. Participating in this celebration are representatives of the French Nation, here at the invitation of this Government. Again French soldiers tread American soil, and French vessels ride the waters of York river. The model of the monument to be erected is here before us. Thirteen female figures, representing the thirteen colonies, seem to support on their shoulders a column inscribed with the names of thirty-eight States, and crowned by a figure of Liberty. This embodies the idea that from the thirteen colonies grew the thirty-eight States, and sprung the truest and most thorough and genuine liberty ever enjoyed by any people. On the four sides of the base, and carrying out the original design of the Continental Congress, are emblems of the alliance between the United States and His Most Christian Majesty, and a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis. And now, as the appropriate opening of our celebration, the corner-stone of the monument will be laid with all the grand and solemn ceremonies befitting so great an occasion, by the Order of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of which Washington himself was a chief member.”

The brethren of the order of Free and Accepted Masons, under direction of the Grand Master of Virginia, then proceeded to lay the corner-stone. The chair occupied on this occasion was the one which Lord Bottetourt, when loyal Governor of the Old Dominion, presented to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and in which George Washington sat while Grand Master of Virginia Masons. The sash and apron worn by Grand Master Peyton S. Coles, of Virginia, were worked by Mrs. Lafayette, and presented to Washington in 1784, at Mt. Vernon. The gavel was made from a portion of the quarter-deck of the United States frigate *Lawrence*, flagship of Commodore Perry, at the battle and victory of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813.

The French minister delivered an address on behalf of the French delegation. He said:

"We come to celebrate a glorious date, when the heroes of independence were able to set their final seal to the solemn proclamation of the 4th of July, 1776. We come, also, to salute the dawn of that era of prosperity, where led by her great men, America permitted the intelligence of her people to soar, and their energy to manifest itself, and this power of the United States has strengthened, and every year has added to the prestige which surrounds her star spangled banner. When France brought from beyond the seas the co-operation of her army and navy to this valiant people engaged in a war for independence, when Lafayette, Rochambeau, De Grasse and so many others drew in their footsteps the young and brave scions of our most illustrious families, they yielded to a generous impulse, and came with disinterested courage to sustain the cause of liberty. A blessing went with their endeavors and gave success to their arms; for when, one hundred years ago, as to-day, French and Americans grasped each other's hands at Yorktown, they realized they had helped to lay the corner-stone of a great edifice. But, surely, the most far-sighted among those men would have started had he been able to look down the long vista of a century, and see at this end this republic, then young and struggling with all the difficulties which surrounded her, now calm, radiant, and beaming with her halo of prosperity. The great Washington himself, whose genius foresaw the destiny of this country, could not have predicted this. Truly, the United States have made, especially in these latter years, gigantic strides along the route to still greater progress, by showing the world what can be accomplished by an energetic and intelligent people, always as respectful of its duties as jealous of its rights.

"America has given a great example, and has been the cause of rejoicing to all true lovers of liberty.

"France is proud of having contributed to found this great republic, and her wishes for your prosperity are deep and sincere. Mutual friendship is founded on many affinities, taste, and aspirations which time can not destroy; and future generations, I trust, will assist again in this place at a spectacle unprecedented in the history of two great nations, renewing, from century to century, a compact of fraternal and imperishable affection.

"I will not close without thanking the Federal Government of the different States of this Union, of which delegation we have been the guests, also the people of America, for the sympathy and welcome extended to the representatives of France. Each of us will treasure the recollection of American hospitality and friendly sentiments which have been manifested to us in every place and in every sphere."

The Marquis de Rochambeau made a graceful response in French. He said:

"Citizens of the United States: You have invited us to celebrate with you a great achievement of arms, and we did not hesitate to brave the terrors of the ocean to say to you that what our fathers did in 1781 we, their sons, would be willing to do to-day, and attest our constant friendship, and further show that we cherish the same sentiments as our fathers in those glorious days we now celebrate. In the name of my companions, who represent here the men who fought, permit me to hope that the attachment formed in these days around this monument, which is about to be erected, will be renewed in one hundred years, and will again celebrate the victory which joined our fathers in comradeship and alliance."

Baron Steuben then responded in German in an appropriate speech, which was loudly applauded.

There were vociferous cheers for the distinguished guests of the nation.

The centennial ode was sung by the chorus.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies at the monument there was a reception by President Arthur at the Lafayette Hall, amongst those present were the Cabinet, Gov. Long, of Massachusetts, Gov. Cornell, of New York, Gov. Jerome, of Michigan, Gov. Smith, of Wisconsin, Gov. Littlefield, of Rhode Island, Gov. Hoyt, of Pennsylvania, Gov. Ludlow, of New Jersey, Gov. Farnham, of Vermont, Gov. Hamilton, of Maryland, and several other Governors of Southern States, United States Commissioners, State Commissioners, Gen. Sherman, Gen. Hancock, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Ex-President Tyler's widow, Senators, and other officials.

The Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, delivered the centennial oration, and his address was one of the most eloquent and thrilling historical speeches ever presented to an audience. He sketched in vivid colors the picture of the despondency of the American army when France nobly came to its aid, the march of Washington to Yorktown, and the events of the siege which finally culminated in the surrender of Cornwallis, the bravest of England's brave soldiers. He paid well-deserved tributes to Lafayette, Rochambeau, de Grasse, de Viosmenil, de Chastellux, de Lauzun, Baron von Steuben, and the other French and German officers who contributed so greatly to the success of the operations about Yorktown. The American officers, headed by the immortal Washington, also claimed the attention of the speaker, who described them in language which inspired his vast audience with patriotic enthusiasm.

"And now, fellow countrymen," said the orator, "as we look back at that history at this hour, and see at what a great price our fathers

purchased for us the freedom we are now enjoying—at what a cost of toil and treasure and blood these republican institutions of ours have been founded and built up—can there fail to come home to each one of our hearts a deeper sense of our responsibility, as a people and as individuals, for upholding, advancing and transmitting them unimpaired to our posterity. The century which has rolled away since the scene we commemorate needs no review on this occasion. It has made its mark upon our land, and written its own history on all our memories. The immense increase of our population, the vast expansion of our territory, the countless productions of our industry, the measureless mass of our crops, the magic reduction of our debt, the marvelous prosperity of our people, beyond that of all other nations of the earth—all these are things not to boast of, as if they were of our own accomplishment, but to recognize and thank God for with all our hearts. Nor can we of this generation stand here to-day, on this Virginia soil, beneath this October sun, without an irrepressible thrill of exultation and thanksgiving that we are here as brothers, from the St. John's to the Rio Grande, from the Atlantic to the Pacific—all conflicts long over, and all causes for conflicts at an end—fifty millions of people, all free and equal, and all recognizing one country, one Constitution, one flag, to be cherished in every heart, to be defended by every hand! But it is of our future, not of the past, nor even of the present, that I would speak, in the brief remnant of this address, it is not what we have been, or what we have done, or even what we are, that weighs on our thoughts at this hour, even to the point of oppressiveness; but what are we to be? What is to be the character of a second century of independence for America? What are to be its issues for ourselves? What are to be its influences on mankind at large? And what can we do, all powerless as we are to pierce the clouds which rest upon the future, or to penetrate the counsels of an overruling Providence—what can we do to secure these glorious institutions of ours from decline and fall, that other generations may enjoy what we now enjoy, and that our liberty may be indeed be ‘a liberty to that only which is good, just and honest’—a ‘liberty enlightening the world?’ We cannot, if we would, conceal from others or from ourselves, that all has not gone well with us of late, and that there has been, and still is, in many minds, an anxious, if not a fearful, looking forward to what is to come. I do not forget that other lands have not been exempt from simultaneous and even similar troubles with our own, and that a contagion of crime and tumult seems to have been sweeping over both hemispheres alike.

“We need not, certainly, make too much of our own discreditable deadlocks at Washington or at Albany, while the Prime Minister of

England is heard lamenting that 'the greatest and noblest of all representative assemblies in the world is in some degree disabled, in some degree dishonored, by the abuse of rules intended for the defense of liberty.' But these have not been the worst signs of our times. It was strikingly said, by a great moral and religious writer of old England in the last century, in relation to his own land, that 'between the period of national honor and complete degeneracy there is usually an interval of national vanity, during which examples of virtue are recounted and admired without being imitated.' Oh, let us beware lest we should be approaching such an interval in our own history! No one will deny that there is enough of recounting and extolling the great example of virtue and valor, and patriotism which have been left us by our fathers. Voices of admiration and eulogy resound throughout the land. Statues and monuments and obelisks are rising at every corner. There can hardly be too many of them. But vice and crime, speculation and embezzlement, bribery, corruption, profligacy, and even assassination, alas! stalk our streets and stare up at such memorials unrebuked and unabashed. And are there not symptoms of malarias, in some of our high places, more pestilent than any that ever emanated from Potomac or even Pontine marshes, infecting our whole civil service, and tainting the very life-blood of the Nation?

"Let me not exaggerate our dangers or dash the full joy of this occasion by suggesting too strongly that there may be poison in our cup. But I must be pardoned, as one of a past generation, for dealing with old-fashioned counsels in old-fashioned phrases.

"Our reliance for the preservation of republican liberty can only be on the common-place principles, and common-sense maxims which lie within the comprehension of the children in our schools, or of the simplest or least cultured man or woman. The fear of the Lord must still and ever be the beginning of our wisdom, and obedience to His commandments the rule of our lives. Crime must not go unpunished, and vice must be stigmatized and rebuked as vice. Human life must be held sacred, and lawless violence and bloodshed cease to be regarded as a redress or remedy for anything. It is not by assassinating Emperors or Presidents that the welfare of mankind or the liberty of the people is to be promoted. Such acts ought to be as execrable in the sight of man as they are in the sight of God. Peace, order, and good old virtues of honesty, charity, temperance, and industry, must be cultivated and revered. The purity of private life must be cherished and guarded, and luxury and extravagance discouraged. Polygamy must cease to pollute our land. Profligate literature must be scorned and left unpurchased. Public opinion must be refined, purified, strengthened, and rendered prevailing and

imperative, by the best thoughts and best words which the press, the platform, and the pulpit can pour forth. The pen and the tongue alike must be exercised under a sense of moral responsibility. In a word, the less of government we have by formal laws and statutes, the more we need, and the more we must have of individual self-government. General education will benefit those with the elective franchise and check Nihilism, Communism and other isms. Without education we are lost, and with the blessing of God which is sure to follow then a second century of our Republic may be expected. On the day after the surrender here, Washington had divine services in all the camps, and Congress went in a body to church to offer up thanks to God for the victory. The King of France called upon the French soldiers and the people in France to return thanks to God for the victory. Next to promoting the greatest benefit to all, as a government we must always be an example to the world. For the preservation of our Republic is nothing less than the hope or despair of the ages. Let us strive, then, to aid and advance the liberty of the world in the only legitimate way in our power—by patriotic fidelity and devotion in upholding, illustrating, and adorning our own free institutions. There is no limit to our prosperity and welfare, if we are true to those institutions. We have nothing now to fear except from ourselves. There is no boundary line for separating us, without cordons of custom-houses and garrisons of standing armies, which would change the whole character of those institutions. We are one by the configuration of nature, and by the strong impress of art—inextricably intertwined by the lay of our land, the run of our rivers, the chain of our lakes, and the iron network of our crossing and re-crossing and ever multiplying and still advancing tracks of trade and travel. We are one by the memories of our fathers. We are one by the hopes of our children. We are one by a Constitution and a Union which have not only survived the shock of foreign and civil war, but have stood the abeyance of almost all administration, while the whole people were waiting breathless, in alternate hope and fear, for the issues of an execrable crime. We are one, bound together afresh by the electric chords of sympathy and sorrow, vibrating and thrilling day by day of the livelong Summer through every one of our hearts for our basely wounded and bravely suffering President, bringing us all down on our knees together in common supplications for his life, and involving us all at last in a common flood of grief at his death! I dare not linger amid scenes like these, on that great affliction which has added, indeed, ‘another hallowed name to the historical inheritance of our Republic,’ but which has thrown a pall of deepest tragedy upon the falling curtain of our first century. Oh, let not its influences be lost upon us for the century to come, but let

us be one, henceforth and always, in mutual regard, conciliation, and affection!

“Go on, hand in hand, Oh States, never to be disunited! Be the praise and the heroic song of all posterity! Join your invincible might to do worthy and godlike deeds! Let me invoke, as I devoutly and fervently do, the choicest and richest blessings of heaven on those who shall do most, in all time to come, to preserve our beloved country in unity, peace, and concord!”

Mr. James Baron Hope, of Virginia, then read a Centennial poem, with fine effect.

The celebration closed with a parade of 10,000 troops, and a grand naval review.

In viewing the grand parade of 10,000 troops “the first troops in the column are the regular heavy artillery companies, who carry muskets and march with admirable steadiness. Next come the regular infantry companies, and after them the regular Marine Corps, only distinguished from the infantry by their white belts and yellow chevrons. But who are those fellows in round caps, blue jackets and loose trousers? They carry muskets, and march, save for a little sea roll in their gait, with almost as much steadiness as the regulars. They are the sailors from the fleet showing that they can be soldiers at a pinch as well as any landmen. A big battallion of them passes with the rear brought up by the boat howitzer squads dragging their pieces by long ropes. The next questions on the reviewing stand are about the large detachment of drizzling old men in dark blue. Only one platoon carries guns. The rest keep their places with evident effort, and lose them for a minute when the order double-quick sets their old legs in unaccustomed motion. Old soldiers those, whose warfare was long since over. They come from the National Asylum at Hampton. Before the volunteers begin to pass there is a little interlude which enables us to look over the field and see that the column of regulars have turned off at a right angle and that its head is already out of sight in a little valley a mile away. Foremost of the volunteers, and in the place of honor, comes the Chatham Artillery of Georgia, the oldest organization in the parade. It dates from 1786, and its brass guns were cast in 1755. Gray and scarlet are its colors. The New Jersey battalion of picked companies from the different regiments of the State wins applause by its handsome appearance, and its short and wonderfully accurate marching step. After a small battalion from Delaware, we greet the Pennsylvania detachment, a full regiment wearing long blue overcoats and perfectly equipped for active field service, even to haversacks, canteens and coffee cups. The old soldiers on the reviewing stand are delighted with these troops. A white-coated band and a handsome staff of

mounted officers lead on the 9th Massachusetts, one of the best marching and best looking regiments in the whole line. It would be hard to choose between it and the crack Baltimore regiment, the 5th Maryland, which follows it. The eyes of the German officers on the stand sparkle with enthusiasm at the sight of these two splendid bodies of soldiers.

"Room for South Carolina now, whose martial ardor was not dampened by her defeat in the late war. Her young men take naturally to soldiering. She has ten companies here which lack nothing but similarity of uniform to rank among the finest commands on the ground. One of them carries the historic Eutaw battle-flag. These three companies of tall, dark blue fellows who follow South Carolina, are from New Hampshire, and next comes Virginia's splendid array with General Fitz Hugh Lee at the head, a squadron of cavalry, four regiments of gray infantry, including the cadets from the Lexington military school, and a number of unattached companies. The Virginia column ends with the companies of colored troops, who get more applause than any other organization. The handsome white and scarlet Boston Cadets, who arrived too late to get in line with the other Massachusetts troops, are sandwiched in between two of the Virginia brigades; not a bad arrangement, though an accidental one, recalling as it does the early association of the two States in the war for Independence.

"New York is next in order, led by Dodsworth's band. The Brooklyn regiment, with its neat gray uniform, and its light, quick and regular marching step need not fear comparison with any troops in the column. Next to it is Company E of the 74th, and Company D of the 65th, both from Buffalo. North Carolina proves to be second only to Virginia among the Southern States in the number of her troops, but she has too much variety of uniform for the best effect. Rhode Island is creditably represented by two Providence companies, and Vermont by one from Brattleboro and St. Albans. A Kentucky battalion of five companies follow; then the solid men of Michigan, nine companies strong, who look and march like regulars. The Connecticut regiment arrived only this morning, just in time to reach the field and fall in at the rear of the volunteer column. Its tardiness turns out to be fortunate, however, for its excellent appearance and good marching make a capital finish to the infantry column. The rear is closed by two regular batteries of light artillery, which wheel off upon the crest of a ridge half a mile away, unlimber and fire a salute to close the parade. Scarcely has the battery passed the stand when the crowd of spectators closes up around it with a rush, eager to shake the President's hand, which only a few succeeded in doing."